IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 29, 41, 42, 53, and 57 as follows, and add new claims 68-72 as follows.

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request for a current location of a mobile station in a mobile communication system, the request being received from an application configured to provide location dependent services;

determining a an elapsed time since at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined;

comparing the elapsed time to a threshold time limit; and

in response to the comparing:[[,]]

    a) if the elapsed time is within the threshold time limit, providing to the application, as the current location, the last known location, without contacting the mobile station; and

    b) if the elapsed time is not within the threshold time limit, determining a current location of the mobile station and providing to the application, as the current location, the obtained current location.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 further comprising:

determining a current location of the mobile station if the time is not within the threshold limit; and

providing, as the current location, the obtained current location.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the comparing the time to the threshold time limit is dependent upon the status of the mobile station.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein if the mobile station is active the comparing is disabled and a current location is determined for the mobile station.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein if the status of the mobile station is idle, the comparing is enabled.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein if a current location is not provided, the last known location is provided as the current location.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 further comprising storing the last known location of a mobile station together with a time associated with the last known location.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 further comprising storing the threshold time limit.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 further comprising dynamically adjusting the threshold time limit.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the threshold limit is included in the request for the current location.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the time is an elapsed time.

41. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at a network element a request from an application for a current location of a mobile station, the request being received from an application configured to provide location dependent services; in a mobile communication system;

determining, at the network element, a an elapsed time since at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined;

comparing, at the network element, the elapsed time to a threshold time limit; and,

in response to the comparing[[,]]:

a) if the elapsed time is within the threshold time limit, providing to the application, as the current location, the last known location, without contacting the mobile station; and

b) if the elapsed time is not within the threshold time limit, determining a current location of the mobile station and providing to the application, as the current location, the obtained current location.

42. (Currently Amended) A network element comprising:

means for receiving a request for a current location of a mobile station in a mobile communication system, the request being received from an application configured to provide location dependent services;

means for determining a an elapsed time since at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined;

means for comparing the elapsed time to a threshold time limit; and

means for providing to the application, as the current location, in response to the comparing, the last known location, if the elapsed time is within the threshold time limit without contacting the said mobile station; and

means for determining a current location of the mobile station and means for providing to the application, as the current location, the obtained current location, if the elapsed time is not within the threshold time limit.

43. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for determining a current location for the mobile station if the time is not within the threshold limit; wherein the means for providing is adapted to provide, as the current location, the obtained current location.

44. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the means for comparing the time to the threshold time limit is responsive to a signal indicating the status of the mobile station.

45. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 44 responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is active the comparing means is disabled and a current location is determined for the mobile station.

46. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 44 wherein responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is idle, the comparing means is enabled.

47. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 43, wherein if a current location is not provided, the network element is adapted to provide the last known location is provided as the current location.

48. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for storing the last known location of a mobile station together with a time associated with the last known location.

49. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for storing the threshold time limit.

50. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for dynamically adjusting the threshold time limit.

51. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.

52. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the threshold time limit is included in the request for a current location.

53. (Currently Amended) A mobile communication system comprising:

an application configured to provide location dependent services and to generate a location request for a user equipment;

a network element configured to receive the request for a current location of a mobile station;

a network element configured to determine ~~a~~ an elapsed time since ~~at which~~ a last known location of the mobile station was determined and to compare the elapsed time to a threshold time limit; ~~and~~

a network element configured to provide, as the current location, in response to ~~the~~ said step of comparing, the last known location, without contacting the said mobile station, if the elapsed time is within the threshold time limit; and

a network element configured to determine a current location of the mobile station and to provide to the application, as the current location, in response to said comparing, the obtained current location, if the elapsed time is not within the threshold time limit.

54. (Previously Presented) A mobile communication system according to claim 53, wherein the network element for determining the time at which the last known location was determined includes a visitor location register.

55. (Previously Presented) A mobile communication system according to claim 53 wherein the system implements a customized applications for mobile network enhanced logic (CAMEL) framework.

56. (Previously Presented) A mobile communication system according to claim 53 wherein the system implements location services.

57. (Currently Amended) A network element comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive a request for a current location of a mobile station in a mobile communication system, the request being received from an application configured to provide location dependent services;

a determining unit configured to determine a an elapsed time since at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined;

a comparing unit configured to compare the elapsed time to a threshold time limit; and

a providing unit configured to provide to the application, as the current location, in response to the comparing, the last known location if the elapsed time is within the threshold time limit, without contacting the said mobile station; and

a determining unit configured to determine a current location of the mobile station and a providing unit configured to provide to the application, as the current location, in response to the comparing, the obtained current location, if the elapsed time is not within the threshold time limit.

58. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 57 further comprising a determining unit configured to determine a current location for the mobile station if the time is not within the threshold limit; wherein the providing unit is configured to provide, as the current location, the obtained current location.

59. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 57 wherein the comparing unit is responsive to a signal indicating the status of the mobile station.

60. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 59 responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is active the comparing unit is disabled and a current location is determined for the mobile station.

61. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 59 wherein responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is idle, the comparing unit is enabled.

62. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 58, wherein if a current location is not provided, the network element is configured to provide the last known location as the current location.

63. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 57 further comprising a storing unit configured to store the last known location of a mobile station together with a time associated with the last known location.

64. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 57 further comprising a storing unit configured to store the threshold time limit.

65. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 57 further comprising an adjusting unit configured to dynamically adjust the threshold time limit.

66. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 57 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.

67. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 57 wherein the threshold time limit is included in the request for a current location.

68. (New) A network element as claimed in claim 42 further comprising means for receiving the threshold limit with the request for the current location.

69. (New) A system as claimed in claim 53 further comprising means for receiving the threshold limit with the request for the current location.

70. (New) A system as claimed in claim 53 further comprising means for storing the threshold time limit.

71. (New) A system as claimed in claim 53 further comprising means for dynamically adjusting the threshold time limit.

72. (New) A system as claimed in claim 53 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.